

We claim:-

1. A water absorbent comprising
  - 5 (a) particles of a water absorbent polymer, and
  - (b) a nitrogenous polymer containing from 5 to 17 mol/kg, based on the total weight of the nitrogenous polymer, of protonatable nitrogen atoms.
- 10 2. A water absorbent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nitrogenous polymer is a hydrolysis product of a homo- or copolymer of an N-vinylcarboxamide and/or N-vinylcarboximide.
- 15 3. A water absorbent as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized by
  - a particle size distribution wherein more than 98% by weight of the particles are from 100 to 850  $\mu\text{m}$  in size,
  - a Saline Flow Conductivity of at least  $30 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s/g}$ ,
  - a Ball Burst Strength (30 min) of at least 50 gf,
  - 20 - a Ball Burst Strength (16 h) of at least 50 gf, and
  - a quotient  $[\text{BBS (30 min)} - \text{BBS (16 h)}] / \text{BBS (30 min)}$  of less than 0.8.
- 25 4. A water absorbent as claimed in claim 2, wherein the nitrogenous polymer is a hydrolysis product of a homopolymer of N-vinylformamide but has a degree of hydrolysis in the range from 30 to 80 mol%.
- 30 5. A water absorbent as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the nitrogenous polymer has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 10 000 to 500 000 daltons.
- 35 6. A water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising from 0.001% to 5% by weight of nitrogenous polymer, based on the weight of the water absorbent polymer.
7. A water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising a finely divided water-insoluble salt.
- 40 8. A water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the water absorbent polymer is polymerized from
  - from 49.9% to 99.9% by weight of at least one monomer A selected from the group consisting of monoethylenically unsaturated acids and salts thereof,
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- from 0% to 50% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B other than said monomer A, and
- 5      - from 0.001% to 20% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer C.
- 9.    A water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the particles of the water absorbent polymer are surface
- 10    postcrosslinked.
- 10.   A water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising a carrier selected from the group consisting of cellulose, modified cellulose, rayon, polypropylene, polyes-
- 15    ter, hydrophilicized nylon, polyethylene, polyacrylic, polyamides, polystyrene, polyurethane and polyacrylonitrile.
- 11.   A water absorbent as claimed in claim 10, wherein the nitrogenous polymer is applied onto the carrier.
- 20    12.   A process for producing a water absorbent as claimed in any preceding claims, which comprises the nitrogenous polymer or a solution thereof being applied onto the particles of the water absorbent polymer and, as the case may be, dried.

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